

Introduced by Senator Alarcon

February 23, 2006

An act to add Section 15563 to the Government Code, relating to economic development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1537, as introduced, Alarcon. Labor and Workforce Development Agency: California Business Investment Services Unit.

Under existing law, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency consists of the Office of the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, the Agricultural Relations Board, the California Workforce Investment Board, the Department of Industrial Relations, and the Employment Development Department. Existing law authorizes the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, for the purpose of administration, to organize the agency, subject to approval of the Governor, in the manner he or she deems necessary to segregate and conduct the work of the agency.

This bill would require the California Business Investment Services Unit within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to perform specified functions and activities related to California businesses. The bill would make its implementation contingent upon the transfer of the necessary positions from the Employment Development Department and the Department of Industrial Relations to the agency and an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute, as prescribed.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 15563 is added to the Government Code, to read:

15563. (a) The California Business Investment Services Unit within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency shall perform the following functions and activities:

(1) Represent the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development in establishing clear lines of communication with California businesses.

(2) Advise the secretary on the problems and concerns of the business community, particularly those problems and concerns unique to California's small businesses.

(3) Review recommendations from the business community and advise the secretary on proposals affecting business conditions in California.

(4) Act as a liaison between the business community and all state agencies on issues affecting business development and ensure that the findings and recommendations of each state agency are reported to the secretary.

(5) Cooperate with public and private agencies engaged in promoting and encouraging the location and development of new businesses in the state, as well as maintaining and expanding existing businesses.

(6) Aid business concerns in their relationship with appropriate federal and state agencies such as procurement and lending agencies and the Small Business Administration.

(7) Market California as a cost-effective and advantageous place for businesses to locate or expand.

(b) Subdivision (a) shall not be construed to require any local business to work with the California Business Investment Services Unit in the performance of the unit's functions, except on a voluntary basis.

(c) Implementation of this section is contingent upon the transfer of the necessary positions from the Employment Development Department and the Department of Industrial Relations to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute that

- 1 provides sufficient funding for performing the functions and
- 2 activities under this section.

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